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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,107	12/17/2001	Francesco M. Brani	CH 000030	2433

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HIEP

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 04/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,107

Applicant(s)

BRANI, FRANCESCO M. 

Examiner

Hiep Nguyen

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed on 01-23-03 has been received and entered in the case. New ground of rejections necessitated by the amendment is set forth below.

Drawings

The proposed drawings filed on 01-23-03 are objected to because in figure 1, the display device is driven by an **external** driver circuit and this is in contrast with claim 13 wherein, the driver circuit is a part of the display device. The blank box (9) of figure 1 needs a functional label. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 18 is objected to because it depends upon itself. The recitation “said second phase” in claims 12 and 18 lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Correction and/or clarification is required.

Regarding claims 7 and 13, the recitation “wherein signals from each of said plurality of stages are fed back to said phase generator to effect adaptive control of a plurality of phases of said plurality of stages” is indefinite because it is unclear as to how the phase generator is adjusted to adaptively control the plurality of phases of the plurality of stages.

“Regarding claims 10 and 16, the recitation “wherein one of said signals is derived at said switching device and is indicative of a state of a phase from said phase generator” is indefinite because it is misdescriptive. Figure 1 of the present application shows that the “one of said signals” from the switch indicates the state of the switch, not the “state of a phase” as recited.

Regarding claim 13, the recitation “A display device including a driver circuit” is indefinite because it is misdescriptive. The proposed drawing, figure 1, of the present application shows that the driver circuit is not included in the display device. The driver circuit is an external circuit that drives the display device.

Claims 8, 9, 12, 14, 15 are also indefinite because of the technical deficiencies of claims 7 and 13.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 7 and 13, insofar as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boerstler (US Pat. 5,870,003).

Regarding claims 7 and 13, figure 1 of Boerstler shows driver circuit (or a driver circuit intendedly used in a display device) comprising:

a phase generator (11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 16, 19, 20);

a charge pump, which includes a plurality of stages (14, 15). The signals (+V_c, -V_c, +I_{ff}, -I_{ff}) from each of said plurality of stages are fed back to the phase generator (11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 16, 19, 20) to generate signals having different phases (the output signals of element 13).

Claims 7-10 and 13-16, insofar as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Young (US Pat. 5,889,428).

Regarding claims 7 and 13, figure 4 of Young shows a driver circuit (or a driver circuit intendedly used in a display device) comprising:

a phase generator (87A, 87B, 92);

a charge pump, which includes a plurality of stages (76A, 89A and 76B, 89B). The signals from each of said plurality of stages (signals that are fed back to elements 87A and 87B) are fed back to the phase generator to generate signals having different phases (PH1, PH2).

Regarding claims 8 and 14, each of the stages includes a driver (89A or 89B), a charge storage device (80A or 80B) and a switching device (78A and 78B).

Regarding claims 9, 10, 15 and 16, “one of said signal” (at node V1) is derived between said driver (89A) and said charge storage device (80A) via (78A). The voltage of this signal indicates the state of a phase from said phase generator (when a stage is turned on) and the state of the switch that is turned on/off.

Claims 7 and 13, insofar as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application (EP 0808014A2)

Regarding claims 7 and 13, figure 1 of EP 0808014A2 shows driver circuit (or a driver circuit intendedly used in a display device) comprising:

a phase generator (2, 4, 5, 3-1 to 3-n);

a charge pump, which includes a plurality of stages (1-1 to 1-n). The signals from each of said plurality of stages are fed back to the phase generator to generate signals having different phases (the output signals of 6-1 to 6-n).

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references are cited as of interest because it shows some common-mode detection circuit analogous to the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Hiep Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0127. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (703) 308-4876. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308- 6251.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956).

Hiep Nguyen

03-28-03



TUANT.LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER